WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for re-directing a client session, comprising:

receiving a request from a client terminal;

selecting one of a plurality of gateways to process the request;

sending a re-direct message to the client terminal, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway may include a private port number associated with the selected gateway.

3.   The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the private port number associated with the selected gateway;

translating the port number associated with the selected gateway to an actual port number of the selected gateway.

4.   The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway, the subsequent request including the actual port number of the selected gateway.

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5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

receiving a response to the subsequent request from the selected gateway, the response including the actual port number of the selected gateway;

translating the actual port number of the selected gateway to the private port number associated with the selected gateway.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

forwarding the response to the client terminal, the response including the private port number associated with the selected gateway.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a subsequent request associated with the re-direct message, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising:

forwarding the subsequent request to the selected gateway, the subsequent request including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

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11.   The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving a response to the subsequent request from the selected gateway, the response including the Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway;

5   forwarding the response to the client terminal.

12.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

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13.   An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising:

means for receiving a request from a client terminal;

15   means for selecting one of a plurality of gateways to process the request;

means for sending a re-direct message to the client terminal, the re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway.

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14.   The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway may be a private port number associated with the selected gateway.

25   15.   the method of Claim 13, wherein the information associated with the selected gateway is an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.

16.   The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising:

30   means for maintaining an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

17. An apparatus for re-directing a client session, comprising:

a load balancer operable to receive an initial request from a client terminal, the load balancer operable to select one of a plurality of gateways to process the request, the load balancer operable to send a re-direct message to the client terminal in response to the request, re-direct message including information identifying the selected gateway.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the load balancer receives a subsequent request from the client terminal, the subsequent request including the information identifying the selected gateway, the load balancer operable to forward the request to the selected gateway.

19. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the load balancer maintains an association between the client terminal and the selected gateway.

20. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the information identifying the selected gateway includes one of a private port number associated with the selected gateway and an Internet Protocol address of the selected gateway.